

Energy Independence

Congressman Becerra works to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and invest in the clean, renewable sources of energy to create jobs and clean the air for residents of Los Angeles and California's 31st Congressional District.

Rep. Becerra supports programs that aid modest-income families impacted by high energy prices and has worked to enact numerous legislative proposals that are setting America on course to a clean energy independent future, including:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

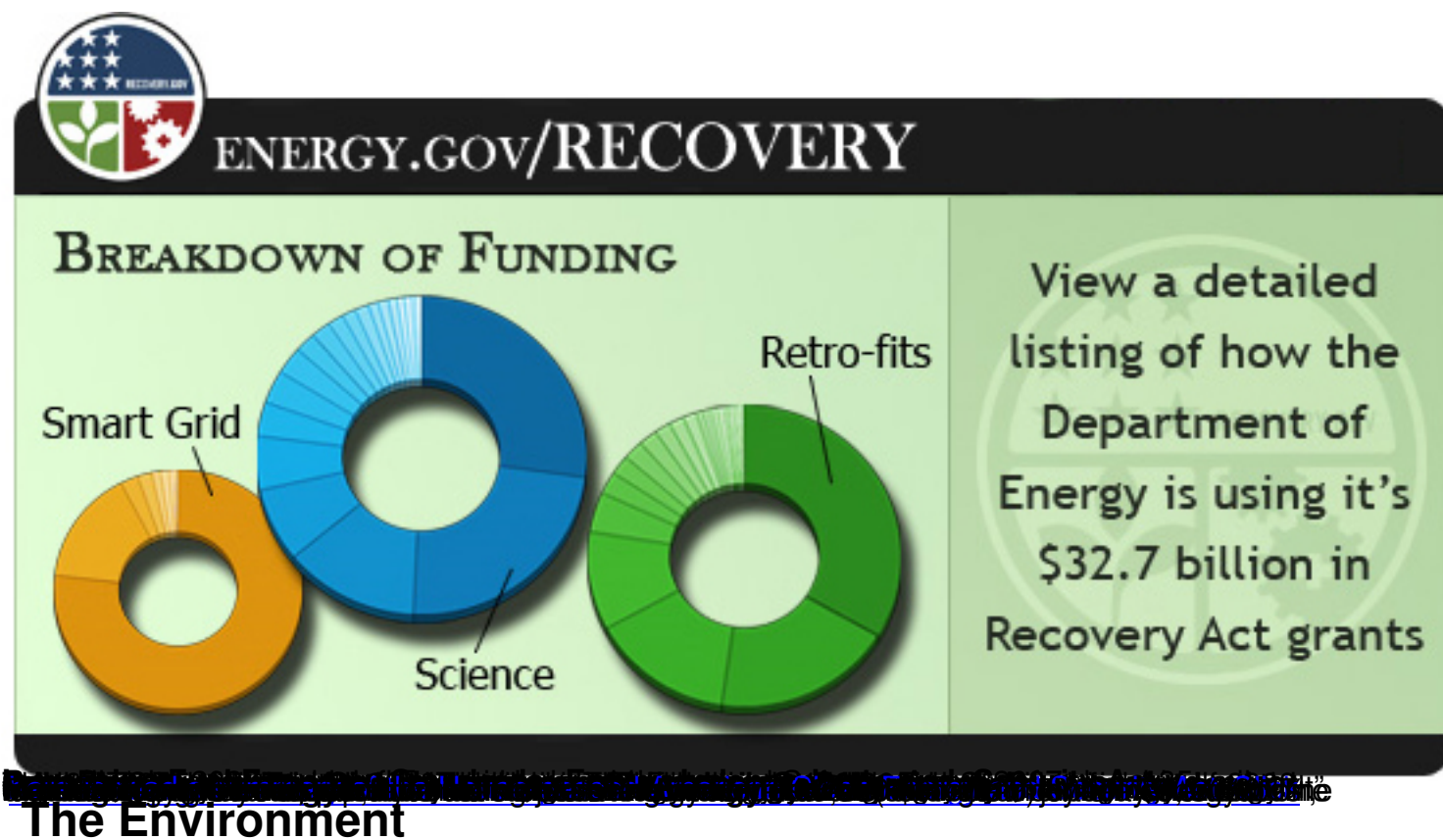
Rep. Becerra voted for the Recovery Act, signed into law February 17, 2009, which is providing over \$32 billion in grants to promote energy efficiency and invest in America's homegrown energy sources that will never run out, like wind and solar power.

In California's 31st Congressional District, the [Coalition for Responsible Community Development](#) (CRCD) and [Women In Non Traditional Employment Roles](#) (WINTER), both located in South Los Angeles, each received Recovery Act grants to train local residents for green construction, energy efficiency, and weatherization jobs.

In addition to jumpstarting the economy and saving millions of jobs, the Recovery Act is making major investments in America's clean energy independent future. Recovery Act grant programs include:

- \$5 billion for the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#)
- \$3.5 billion for [Smart Grid Investment Grant Program](#)
- \$346 million for [Energy efficient building technologies](#)

[Click here](#) to see a full breakdown of Recovery Act grant programs administered through the Department of Energy.



The Environment

Rep. Becerra supports of legislative proposals to cut pollution and promote a healthy environment, especially in urban areas like California's 31st congressional district, including:

The Brownfields Remediation Permanent Tax Incentive Act

On July 20, 2010, Reps. Becerra and Paul Ryan introduced the [Brownfields Remediation Permanent Tax Incentive Act](#)

in the House. The bill addresses the scourge of "brownfields," which are plots of contaminated land often found in urban landscapes that require extensive environmental remediation before they can be developed. The legislation makes permanent a tax incentive for private companies that take on the task of cleaning up these contaminated sites by making environmental cleanup costs fully deductible in the year that they are incurred. Making this incentive permanent will increase the amount of private capital available to revitalize these sites, accelerating the renewal and redevelopment of surrounding neighborhoods and commercial areas.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that there are over 450,000 brownfields sites in the United States. Rep. Becerra's legislation will provide a measure of certainty for businesses that may be interested in cleaning and redeveloping a contaminated site, but are unsure that the current tax expensing provision will remain in place throughout the project. Rep. Becerra continues to champion urban environmental renewal.

Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act

On November 19, 2009, Reps. Becerra and Ginny Brown-Waite [introduced](#) the [Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act](#)

in the House. The bill will authorize public water agencies to issue tax credit bonds to finance innovative new water supply technologies and facilities. These include water-recycling facilities, projects to clean up and use impaired groundwater, and both seawater and brackish groundwater desalination projects. The CREWS bonds will be issued by public water agencies in exactly the same way as those agencies can presently issue conventional tax-exempt municipal bonds.

California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act

Rep. Becerra supports of Rep. Lois Capp's [California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act](#) . This bill permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California.